United Nations A/60/L.18

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 November 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 73
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the South Asian earthquake disaster

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 57/152 of 16 December 2002, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/25 of 5 December 2003, 58/214 and 58/215 of 23 December 2003, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004 and 59/279 of 19 January 2005,

Expressing sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the victims, their families and the people of Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and other affected areas, who suffered huge losses of life and socio-economic and environmental damage from the massive earthquake that struck the South Asian region on 8 October 2005,

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Deeply alarmed over the critical condition of millions of homeless and countless injured awaiting immediate response in desperation and pain, being accentuated by extreme weather and difficult terrain,

Welcoming the assistance and contributions of the international community, including Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, in the relief and rehabilitation efforts, which reflect the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation to address and meet the challenges of the disaster, and in this context also appreciating the role of the people and Government of Pakistan,

Welcoming the launching of the South Asia earthquake 2005 flash appeal by the United Nations on 11 October 2005 and the continuous engagement by the Secretary-General to escalate the global relief efforts for the urgent and immediate needs of the affected people,

Welcoming also the convening by the United Nations of a high-level ministerial donors meeting in Geneva on 26 October 2005 to generate further relief assistance and support for recovery from the disaster,

Stressing the need to incorporate risk reduction approaches into development policies and recovery programmes, as set out in the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015,[1]

Recalling the need for continued commitment to assist the affected countries and their peoples, particularly the most vulnerable groups, to fully recover from the catastrophic and traumatic effects of the disaster, including in their medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and welcoming measures announced by the Government of Pakistan and by the international agencies in this regard,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters and hazards in all phases, including prevention, preparedness, mitigation, recovery and reconstruction, as well as in strengthening the response capacity of affected countries,

1. *Expresses its sympathy* to the people affected by the earthquake in South Asia;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to give particular attention to help the affected population, especially orphans and widows, in their physical and psychological trauma and to provide immediate medical assistance, in particular with regard to the vaccination of children and to long-term rehabilitation;

3. *Emphasizes also* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond the present emergency relief, in order to sustain the political will to support the medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction efforts led by the Government of Pakistan and other affected States at all levels;

4. *Welcomes* the effective cooperation between the authorities of Pakistan and the relevant bodies in the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions, relevant international organizations and civil society in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout the ongoing relief operations and

[1] *Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction* (A/CONF.206/6), chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

5. *Encourages* the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to deliver swiftly on their pledges and to continue to provide the necessary funds and assistance to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy in order to, inter alia, sustain the political will of the international community to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction efforts;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways to further strengthen the rapid response capacities for immediate humanitarian relief efforts of the international community, building on the existing arrangements and ongoing initiatives;

8. *Invites* the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, in collaboration with donor countries, other international and regional financial institutions and the United Nations, to mobilize members of the international community, including affected countries, to address the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the affected areas;

9. *Welcomes* the proposed convening of a reconstruction conference to generate assistance and commitments for long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction phases in the disaster-stricken areas, to be held in Islamabad on 19 November 2005;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance" and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2006.